

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 04350 281215Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 SS-15
NSC-05 L-03 H-01 /049 W
-----290340Z 113925 /14

R 272250Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1897

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 4350

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS EAIR BR

SUBJECT: PANAM DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT

REF A. BRASILIA 327, B. STATE 061848, C. BRASILIA 9980,
D. BRASILIA 9997

1. DURING CALL ON AMBASSADOR CABRAL DE MELLO, MAY 26, ECON/
COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR RAISED STATUS OF GOB CONSIDERATION OF EMBASSY'S
SUBMISSION (REFTEL A) NOTING THAT MISSION HAD RECEIVED NEW INQUIRY
FROM US CARRIER. CABRAL DE MELLO SAID HE THOUGHT CENTRAL BANK
WAS STILL WORKING ON WHAT IS AN INHERENTLY COMPLEX QUESTION.

2. COUNSELOR SAID, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY US CARRIER,
REMITTANCE PROBLEM WAS GETTING MORE SERIOUS AGAIN. FOR A TIME,
US CARRIER HAD BEEN ABLE TO EFFECT REMITTANCES FAIRLY QUICKLY
BUT MORE RECENTLY, REMITTANCES HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY DELAYED BECAUSE
OF LESS FREQUENT VISITS FROM THE INSPECTORS WITH RESULTING
EXCHANGE LOSSES. CABRAL DE MELLO ASKED WHETHER REMITTANCES COULD
NOT BE MADE FAIRLY QUICKLY FROM BRAZIL, "WITHIN THREE OR FOUR
DAYS," CONTRASTED WITH THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA WHERE SOME TIME
BACK DELAYS OF UP TO ONE YEAR WERE NOT UNCOMMON. COUNSELOR SAID
EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT DELAYS IN REMITTANCES FROM BRAZIL
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 04350 281215Z

WERE CONSIDERABLY GREATER, NORMALLY ON THE ORDER OF FOUR TO SIX
WEEKS.

3. COUNSELOR SAID THERE ALSO SEEMED TO EXIST, ACCORDING TO THE
CARRIER, AN INCREASING PROBLEM OF DISCRIMINATION ON AIR FREIGHT,
THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS. CERTAIN PROCEDURES COMMON IN
SEA FREIGHT, WERE, ACCORDING TO THE CARRIER, BEING EXTENDED TO THE

AIR FREIGHT BUSINESS.

4. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD SUBMIT DETAILS OF THESE NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S TRANSPORTATION DIVISION.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS MADE SEVERAL EFFORTS TO EXTRACT GOB ACTION ON THIS ISSUE. ON MAY 5, ROCHA (FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AVIATION SPECIALIST) VOLUNTEERED THAT THE CENTRAL BANK WAS STILL STUDYING THE PROBLEM.

FINATT HAS UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO CONTACT SENIOR OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS WORK IN CENTRAL BANK, WHO HAS BEEN TRAVELLING. COUNSELOR PLANS TO MAKE FOLLOWUP PRESENTATION TO COUNSELOR PIRES, CHIEF OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S TRANSPORTATION DIVISION AND, IF NECESSARY, TO RAISE MATTER WITH FERNAO BRACHER, DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL BANK FOR FOREIGN OPERATIONS, ASSUMING WE DO NOT OBTAIN SATISFACTORY RESPONSE AT LOWER LEVELS IN THE BANK.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR CARGO, AIRLINES, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, TRADE COMPLAINTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRASIL04350
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770192-0341
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770511/aaaaajgw.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 86a26088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BRASILIA 327, 77 STATE 61848, 77 BRASILIA 9980, 77 BRASILIA 9997
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2343707
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PANAM DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT
TAGS: EAIR, AFIN, BR, US, PANAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/86a26088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009